

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 609

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Michelle Newman on her selection as Teacher of the Year at Witt Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Newman is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Newman was recently selected as Teacher of the Year for Witt Elementary School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Newman earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from East Tennessee State University, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Tennessee, and she will earn her Ed.S. degree from Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the Witt faculty as a fourth-grade teacher in 2009, Michelle Newman taught at Lincoln Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Newman is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Newman has graciously volunteered her time to numerous scholastic efforts, including Teach Like a Champion, Classroom Performance Training, Running Records, Improving Comprehension, Data-Driven Instruction, Meeting New Standards, Six Traits Writing, and Small Group Instruction; and

WHEREAS, her other leadership roles include serving as a member of the Data Team and the School Advisory Leadership Team, as Lincoln Elementary's former fifth-grade Team Leader and sponsor of the Beta Club, as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Committee, and as a mentor for new teachers and student teachers; and

WHEREAS, her involvement in Meadowview Middle School's fundraising efforts and her service as Secretary of the John Hay PTO, for which she also served as a member of the Parent Committee for the School Improvement Plan, has resulted in numerous benefits; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Michelle Newman is a "Day Made Better" award winner, a recipient of the Cherokee Health System Educator Appreciation Award, a winner of the Best Growth in Fourth Grade Science Instruction Award, and her class has taken first prize in the Hamblen County Directors Writing Contest three times; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Newman truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Newman epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Michelle Newman on being chosen as Teacher of the Year at Witt Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.